

Flood Preparedness

Flash floods are common in Hawaii. They are powerful and dangerous because they can develop quickly (within a few minutes to a few hours after a rainfall event) and carry rocks, mud, and all the debris in their path down to the coast. Below are some tips on how to prepare yourself in case of a flood.



Be Ready

Find out if you live in a flood plain or a high-flood-risk area. If you live next to a stream or in a low lying area, you should be prepared for potential flooding at all times. Keep supplies that will help protect you and your home from flood water.

Be Alert

Familiarize yourself with the common terms used to describe potential flooding conditions:

Flash flood watch - flash flood may occur within an area. Be aware of changing weather by checking for updated weather forecast.

Flash flood warning - flash flood is imminent or occurring. Take immediate action to protect life and property.

Urban and small stream advisory - be alert for the potential flooding of small streams, streets, urban storm drains, underpasses, and low lying areas.

Be Smart

If you notice the water level in the stream is rising rapidly, TURN AROUND and climb to higher ground. If you are in a car and encounter flood waters, get out immediately and move to higher ground. Call 911 and wait for help.

Be Safe

Do not attempt to drive or walk through a flooded area. Stay away from power lines and other electrical wires. Avoid swimming or playing in high waters or streams with rapid flow.

Remember, just 6 inches of moving water can knock a person down. Only 2 feet of water is enough to lift and move a car. **Be ready, be alert, be smart, and be safe.** Visit us on the internet at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm/>.

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Commission on Water Resource Management

